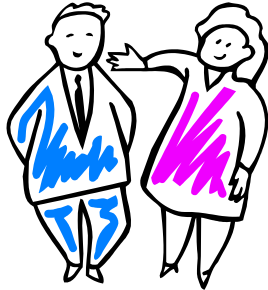




Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation



Welcome, New Members!

Thais Campos
David Dees
David Percival
Marilyn Ryder



RSTB LOGO T-SHIRTS

Are your old logo T-shirts worn out? We still have short sleeve, long sleeve, and sweat shirts in assorted sizes and colors. Prices are as follows:

short sleeve \$12
long sleeve \$14
sweat shirt \$18



Please call Marty if you'd like to place an order: 805-526-4414



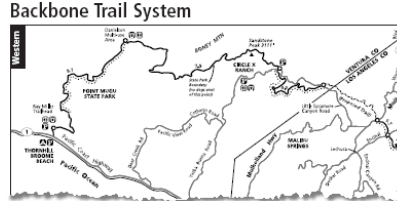
RSTB CLUB MEETING

This month's club meeting will be held at the Community Center, Room B-1 1692 Sycamore Drive, 7:00 PM February 18, 2009

Backbone Trail

If you've ever wanted to experience the trail along the ridgeline of the Santa Monica Mountains, a fabulous series of hikes has been put together by Les Wilson to hike the Backbone Trail. There will be eight hikes in all, starting with the Ray Miller Trail to Big Sycamore Canyon on Jan. 31.

Backbone Trail System



Come and join us for some or all of the hikes! Many thanks to Les for organizing these hikes. See page 5 for more information, and check out the website for links to maps and the National Park Service flyer on the Backbone Trail System.



The Trail Blazers website is a rich source of information such as the News section for hike reports and photos. Thanks to Mark Gilmore for making this great resource available!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please visit the website for details on any of the following hikes and events.

January 31st

Backbone Trail Part 1 - Ray Miller Trailhead to Big Sycamore Canyon
9.9 Miles – Moderate to Strenuous

February 7th

Backbone Trail Part 2: Mishe Mokwa Trailhead to the Big Sycamore Canyon Trailhead
12.5 Miles Moderate to Strenuous

February 14th

Backbone Trail Part 3: Mishe Mokwa Trailhead to Encinal Canyon Road
10.0 Miles Moderate to Strenuous

February 14th

The Love Run at Rocky Peak

February 18th

Club Meeting Not strenuous

February 21st

Work Party - Chumash Trail

February 28th

Backbone Trail Part 4: Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead to Latigo Canyon Road Trailhead
7 Miles Moderate to Strenuous

More information on these events can be found at

<http://simitrailblazers.com>

To make reservations, please email Mark Gilmore at markinthepark@sbcglobal.net

Coming in March!

Free Wild Animal Shows

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the Rancho Simi Trailblazers will sponsor two FREE family programs next March.

Simi Valley: Saturday, March 14
Oak Park: Saturday, March 28

Both programs will start at 10am. Watch for more details about these popular programs in upcoming newsletters! You may also call Colleen Janssen at (805)584-4453 or send email to volunteers@rsrpd.us for more information.

CAMULOS

Camulos is a place on State Route 126 east of Piru. The name was originally what the Ventureño Chumash Indians called a Tataviam (Alliklik) (a tribe of Shoshonean stock) village. The village was just on the line between the two linguistic groups. According to Applegate (1974), *kamulus* means “it is the juniper” (single Chumash words could stand for whole sentences). The village was named for a lone juniper near the Santa Clara River. Junipers are present in the headwaters of the Santa Clara River. One so far down the river would be unusual. According to Kroeber, it contains the root “*mulus*”, the name of an edible fruit. In May 1821 a rancho called “Camulus” is mentioned, and the name “Camulos” appears in many Spanish documents. A *diseno* of the land grant Camulos, dated 1843, shows a *Rio*, a *Lomeria* and a *Canada de Camulos*. Gudde (1969) indicates that the name doesn’t seem to appear on early Anglo-American maps but seems to have been given by the Southern Pacific Railroad to the railroad station in the 1880s. Spanish Californians called it *camulo*. While

it was a Tataviam (Alliklik) village, there must have been many Chumash living there. *Piru* also was Tataviam, while, to the south, *Ta’apu* was Chumash.

Mike Kuhn
7-19-06

Work Party News



The January trail maintenance work party was conducted January 17th on the Mt. McCoy trail. We concentrated on cutting back brush that was narrowing the trail. Many thanks to Linda Anderson, Doug Marsh, David Percival, John Sabol, Roger Steffen and Joe Yates for their great work on the trail.

CHAINS AND RODS IN SURVEYING

Until about 15 years ago surveying of land was done using compass headings, i.e., angles. Since then distances measured by laser instruments have dominated the field. In the good old days lengths of lines were measured using “rods” (also called poles or perches) and chains. The “chain” was invented in 1620 by Edmund Gunter, an English mathematician. Until recently, all land surveying has been shown in chains or divisions of chains. A Gunter’s Chain is a linked measuring-device 66 feet long, including handles on both ends.

To this day the number 66 or a multiple of it appears over and over again in land records. City blocks were usually three chains. Telegraph poles were one or two chains, depending upon their height. The width of a canal was one chain and the width of a road was one chain, with the roadbed in the middle. The original “Broad Ways” was one and a half chains wide. The length of a fence rail in the northeastern U.S. was 11 feet. Six rails equaled a chain – so a viewer could instantly determine the size of an agricultural field or pasture.

Shorter distances were measured in “rods”. A rod is 16 ½ feet – which is one quarter of a chain. A mile is 5280 feet, which is 80 chains (66’x80). An acre is 43,560 square feet, which is 10 square chains (10x66’x66’). Our U.S. Geological Survey maps are laid out in square miles (each a “section” of land), each numbered. They were originally determined on the land using chains. Those same U.S.G.S. section lines were the basis for our north-south, east-west street grid, including on the valley floor in Simi Valley.

Our counting today is a decimal system that is on a base of tens. The old surveying system is on a base of 66. Our one-foot measurement is on a base of 12, i.e., 12 inches to a foot. These kinds of problems are why there is pressure for us to go to a metric system. It may be that your children’s generation will be the last in America to know what a “quarter-inch” drill refers to.

Mike Kuhn
6-6-06

January 17th 2009 - Santa Paula Canyon



On an unseasonably warm winter day nine Trailblazers began an out-and-back hike in Santa Paula Canyon from the trailhead on Highway 150 a few miles northwest of Santa Paula, a quaint town located in the agricultural Santa Clara River Valley and referred to as the “Citrus Capital of the World” for its orange and lemon groves. Avocados also grow in abundance. The initial portion of the hike involved skirting the campus of Thomas Aquinas College, the Ferndale Ranch, avocado groves, and an oil field with mountains looming in the distance. December’s rains lent a pleasing green hue to the vegetation. The winter floods of 2005 washed out much of the old road/trail along Santa Paula Creek, but there is still a discernable trail with many trail markers; in fact, we encountered a crew of volunteers working on trail improvements during the hike. We crossed the creek uneventfully several times, on some logs at one point and on small boulders at other points. Sycamore and alder trees provided intermittent shade. Eventually we began ascending the mountain on the east side of the creek. The trail (an old dirt road narrowed by erosion and plant growth) was pleasingly shaded and led us to Big Cone Campground which has several nice campsites nestled in a grove of big cone Douglas fir trees. Soon after passing the campground we descended into a ravine created by major erosion a few years ago and climbed up a fairly steep slope on the opposite side. The trail then continued a short distance before it descended again, this time to a tributary of Santa Paula Creek. From



there we traveled a short but challenging distance downstream to a picturesque waterfall and punchbowl where we rested and enjoyed the scenery for a while. We resumed our hike on the main trail and climbed northward away from the tributary creek on the shady trail. Soon we were able to look down at the large pool below the waterfall and into the narrow gorge through which the creek flows before it becomes a waterfall. We then explored the nearby slick-rock slide area above the waterfall. The main trail – now named the Last Chance Trail – continues northward eventually connecting to other trails providing access to the wilderness areas to the north. However, on this day we went no further. We

continued on our return journey and eventually arrived at the trailhead, a bit tired but mentally refreshed.

January 3rd 2009 - Nicholas Flat

Twelve Trailblazers met on a chilly Saturday morning to car pool to Leo Carillo State Park for a hike up to Nicholas Pond. The drive from Simi Valley to the state park was an adventure in itself as we traveled along Westlake Blvd (Hwy 23) as it wound its way from Hwy 101 up into the Santa Monica Mountains to its junction with Mulholland Hwy. We then followed Mulholland Hwy to Decker Canyon Road which led down to Pacific Coast Highway (and Leo Carillo State Park). This journey provided magnificent views of mountains, valleys, and a cloud-filled sky. Once the group had assembled at the Nicholas Flat Trail trailhead, we began our ascent toward Nicholas Pond, gaining about 1,600’ in a little over 2 miles and testing our circulatory systems. The chilly morning temperature and a cold wind combined perfectly with the heat our bodies produced as a result of



the steep climb, making it quite pleasant. Then there was the view of the mountainside and the ocean! The rain the night before left the trees and bushes glistening with water and bright green grass grew in places along the trail; there were even a few early blooms that caught our eyes. We crested the mountain, descended through a large meadow, and followed the trail down to Nicholas Pond which was pleasingly full (though several feet below its historic high point). Several ducks were busy at the far end of the large pond. We then followed a short trail up to some large rocks overlooking the pond (at the opposite end from the ducks) and enjoyed a lunch break. As we did so we also enjoyed a stunning view toward the ocean down through a canyon that was displaying fall colors along the creek that ran through it. After lunch we followed the trail a short distance to Nicholas Flat, our turnaround point. We then returned the way we came, taking the Willow Creek Trail on the last leg of our journey; several members of the group spotted some whales in the ocean as we neared the trailhead. Our outing covered 7.6 miles with a total elevation gain of nearly 2,200’.





RSTB Calendar February 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Caroline Carroll</i>	2	3 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	4	5 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mona Steffen</i>	6 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Phillip Pratt</i> <i>Yoko Tamura</i>	7 Backbone Trail Part 2: Mishe Mokwa Trailhead to the Big Sycamore Canyon Trailhead See Schedule
8 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>John Atwood</i> <i>Thais Campos</i>	9 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Marilyn Ryder</i>	10 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	11	12 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jackie Naheux</i>	13	14 Backbone Trail Part 3: Mishe Mokwa Trailhead to Encinal Canyon Rd Love Run at Rocky Peak Trailhead See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Doug Marsh</i> <i>Paula Lightfoot</i>
15 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule	16	17 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule	18 RSTB Meeting 7:00 pm See Page 1	19 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Melissa Steffen</i> <i>Pete Lestrel</i>	20 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mary Ann</i> <i>Campbell</i>	21 Work Party – Chumash Trail See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Carmen Zarcone</i>
22 Rocky Peak 4pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Chris Winfield</i> <i>Lorraine Ferrall</i>	23	24 Long Canyon 6:30pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Connie Ankrom</i>	25 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>David Seifert</i>	26 Chumash Trail 6pm hike See Schedule <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Dave Goldberg</i>	27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Tina McCoy</i>	28 Backbone Trail Part 4: Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead to Latigo Canyon Road See Schedule





Rancho Simi Trail Blazers

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Hiking Schedule



REGULARLY SCHEDULED HIKES

(Rain cancels – No hikes on holidays)

Sunday Evening - Rocky Peak

Meet 4 pm at Rocky Peak trailhead at the end of Rocky Peak Rd off Santa Susana Pass. (Strenuous, 4.8 MRT)

Tuesday Evening - Long Canyon

Meet at 6:30pm in Long Canyon parking lot. Directions: Take 1st Street heading south. Continue when the road's name changes to Long Canyon Road. The parking lot is at the intersection of Long Canyon Road and Wood Ranch Pkwy. (Moderate, 3.0 MRT)

Thursday Evening - The Chumash Trail

Meet at 6pm at Chumash trailhead. Directions - take 118 Fwy to Yosemite exit. Go north on Yosemite, turn right on Flanagan Dr. Trailhead is at the end of Flanagan Dr. (Strenuous, 5.2 MRT)

FEBRUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

February 7th Backbone Trail Part 2: Mishe Mokwa Trailhead to the Big Sycamore Canyon Trailhead Shuttle*



12.5 Miles - (900' elevation gain - 3,000' elevation loss) - Moderate to Strenuous
 Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. The parking fee is \$10 at Big Sycamore Canyon Campground parking lot. There is no parking fee at the Mishe Mokwa trailhead. Parking fees will be shared between everyone in attendance. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. The website has links to a trail map and the National Park Systems Backbone Trail System flier.

February 14th* Backbone Trail Part 3: Backbone Trailhead (across from Mishe Mokwa Trailhead) to Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle*



10.0 Miles - (830' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous
 Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. The website has links to a trail map and the National Park Systems Backbone Trail System flier.

February 14th* The Love Run #3

805 Boot Camp is holding its third annual Love Run to benefit the Trail Blazers! The trail is 4.8 miles round. Dogs are welcome (on a leash, bring water and waste bags). Race starts at 8am at Rocky Peak trailhead. The cost is \$20. For registration forms and more info: http://805bootcamp.com/Community_Races.html. **Volunteers are needed!** Help man tables at the event, 7:30 am at Rocky Peak Interchange with the 118 Freeway. Contact Randy at 805-823-3409 or randy@805BootCamp.com.


February 21st Work Party - Chumash Trail

Meet at the Chumash Trail trailhead. Bring 2 to 3 quarts of water, hat, sunscreen, and gloves to work on the trail.

February 28th Backbone Trail Pt 4: Encinal Canyon Road Trailhead to Latigo Canyon Road Trailhead Shuttle*



7 Miles - (1,692' elevation gain) - Moderate to Strenuous. Meet at 8 AM near Donut Delite at the corner of Madera and Royal. Please remember, this hike requires ample shuttle cars, so be prepared to drive your car from Donut Delite to both the beginning and ending trailheads. There are no parking fees at either trailhead. Shuttle car driving directions will be distributed at Donut Delite. Bring 2 - 3 quarts of water and lunch. Wear sturdy boots. . The website has links to a trail map and the National Park Systems Backbone Trail System flier.

* Not within the jurisdiction of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.  No dogs allowed on trail(s). For information on hikes/work parties, contact the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District at 805-584-4400.

Special Note: - On all hikes and work parties, bring water and wear lug-soled boots. <http://www.simitrailblazers.com>

LANCHO SIMI TRAIL BLAZERS

A Division of the Rancho Simi Foundation

Executive Chair:	Mike Kuhn	HM (805) 583-2345	hannahmike@roadrunner.com
Treasurer:	Peter Ely		
Park District Liaison:	Colleen Janssen	WK (805) 584-4453	volunteers@rsrpd.us
Work Parties Chair:		*** OPEN ***	
Hiking Chair:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Vice Hiking Chair:	Les Wilson	HM (805) 522-2642	les.wilson@simitrailblazers.com
Website:	Mark Gilmore	HM (805) 529-5581	markinthepark@sbcglobal.net
Ways & Means Chair:	Marty Richards	HM (805) 526-4414	
Publicity Chair:	Carrie McCline		
Newsletter Editor:	Kelli Ham	HM (805) 577-1864	simitrailrunner@gmail.com

-----cut out and return with your payment-----

MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a New () or Renewing () member of the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers for the annual donation fee of:

Single.....\$10

Family..... \$15

Name(s) _____ Birth Mo. _____ Day _____

Please list any extra names and birthdays of more than one member (Month & Day Only)

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone wk/hm _____

Would you like to receive periodic email announcements about club activities? Yes () No ()

How did you find out about the RSTB _____

Please make out tax deductible member dues check for the year to:

“Rancho Simi Foundation” mail it to “RSTB, P.O. Box 630445, Simi Valley, Ca 93063-0399



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